

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 157 - SB 112

February 21, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors to establish two tiers of licensure and a certification for an intern of alcohol and drug abuse counseling. Requires persons to be licensed or certified prior to practicing alcohol and drug abuse counseling or, if not licensed, be preparing for licensure or certification under the direct supervision of a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor. Expands the list of counseling activities to include: screening, intake, orientation, assessment, treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, education, referral, report and record keeping, and consultation. Classifies currently licensed counselors as of July 1, 2011, as eligible to receive a level two alcohol and drug abuse counselor license for no additional fee and upon request to the Board.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue –

\$16,100/FY11-12/Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

\$32,100/FY12-13/Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

\$47,900/FY13-14 and Subsequent Years/

Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

Assumptions:

- The Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors will promulgate rules to establish the certification for interns and two tiers of licensure, to develop and implement procedures for reviewing education and training credentials for the certification process, and to develop standards of care. This can be accomplished during regularly scheduled Board meetings and will not result in a significant increase in state expenditures.
- Administrative tasks, such as creating applications, modifying computer systems, and processing higher volume of applications will not result in a significant increase in expenditures and can be accommodated within the existing resources of the Board.
- The proposed Level I licensure requirements and estimated application fees of \$290 correspond to requirements and fees for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors under current law. It is therefore estimated that the total annual number of Level I and Level II applicants would be equal to the annual number of applicants under current law.
- Based on the average number of applications in the past three years, the Board anticipates 75 of the total applicants will qualify for a Level II license.

- The application fee for a Level II licensure will be \$385 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$7,125 [75 x (\$385 - \$290)].
- Based on the number of employees working at half-way houses in Tennessee, the Board anticipates 250 new certified intern applications for applicants preparing for licensure. These 250 annual applications would be new to the state since current licensure requirements are higher than the proposed intern certification requirements.
- The application fee for an individual preparing for licensure will be \$100 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$25,000 (250 x \$100).
- The total increase in application fee revenue will be \$32,125 per year (\$7,125 + \$25,000).
- The current biennial renewal fee is \$325. The biennial renewal fee for a Level II licensure will be \$335 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$750 [75 x (\$335 - \$325)].
- The biennial renewal fee for an individual preparing for licensure will be \$60 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$15,000 (250 x \$60).
- The total increase in biennial revenue will be \$15,750 beginning in FY13-14 (\$750 + \$15,000).
- Since the proposed legislation would take effect January 1, 2012, the FY11-12 impact includes six months of estimated revenues.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1011, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. As of June 30, 2010, the Board had a balance of \$29,121.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

/bos